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August 13, 2001

Dr. Morgan Gopnik, Director
Oceans Study Board
National Academy of Science
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
HA 470
Washington D.C. 20418

Re: Review of the Florida Keys Carrying Capacity Study

Dear Dr. Gopnik:

The Florida Department of Community Affairs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would like to thank the National Academy of Science and the Review Committee for their thoughtful and very helpful comments and guidance concerning the Florida Keys Carrying Capacity Study. Many of your comments had already been initiated as a result of the January workshop. Specifically, the contractor has established a small overview modeling team to oversee all the modules and also has initiated overall contractor team meetings for all of the different modules team members to exchange information and work toward smooth interplay of all aspects of the model.

Thank you also for your input regarding word usage and clarification of terms such as model vs impact assessment tool. We will strive to clearly define terms and the goal of the project to help minimize misunderstandings and clarify expectations.

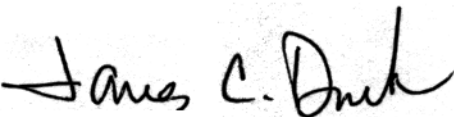
Please let the Review Committee know that a Population Viability Analysis is being conducted for the Key Deer as part of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Big Pine Key. The same contractor is also conducting that study with Dr. Ricardo Calvo as the project manager and Dr. Roel Lopez as lead biologist for the project funded by the Florida Department of Transportation. Many of the local experts in the terrestrial section of the January workshop also reviewed the ongoing HCP work and so are very familiar with the work. The project is included as part of the state's Work in Kind credit toward the Carrying Capacity Study and will be incorporated into this study.

We have amended the time line to allow more time to complete the model. The test model for the Carry Capacity Study will be available in late November 2001. A hard copy of the report will include:

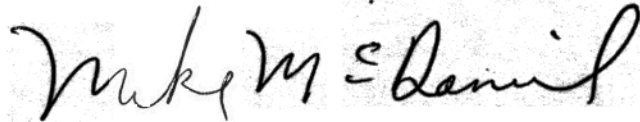
1. Detailed descriptions of inputs and outputs per module, with explanations on the process that link inputs and outputs, summary of what each sub-element will provide the CCAM and how it will be used.
2. Data management information, including source, suitability, intermediate datasets, and QA/QC assessments.
3. Discussion of uncertainties and results of sensitivity testing.
4. Results of the scenario runs from the Local Planners Working Group that fall within the carrying capacity framework of the Florida Keys.

The contract was modified on June 25, 2001, to reflect the new time line. Again, your input and review has been most helpful and we appreciate the attention being given by the Academy team.

Sincerely,



James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District



Michael McDaniel,
Growth Management Administrator
Bureau of Local Planning
Florida Department of Community Affairs